

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25th, 2008

Environmental & Agriculture Education Cluster

Progress is being made on the planning of the summer update conference in Kalispell. We're excited about the planned schedule of events for the conference. Special efforts have been made to ensure teachers attending the conference are able to return home with lots of good information, plus tangible, physical items, like curriculum guides were distributed in the past. I'd very strongly encourage all ag teachers attend the conference. Those of us planning the conference feel this looks to be one of the best in many years.

As I mentioned in last week's update, Montana has been selected as a pilot state for implementing the National Quality Standards. After conversations with Nina and council information, I've been in contact with 5 Ag programs to serve as pilot schools. Their participation will include an initial meeting in May to outline the process, a week-long training in St. Louis in July with representatives of all states and pilot ag programs, learning not only how to initiate the process in their own schools but also tactics/techniques to train their peer ag teachers during next summer's ag teacher update conference on how to utilize the standards as a tool for program improvement. Once all the five schools here in Montana are finalized we'll announce those school names.

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Health Sciences Cluster

HSTE State Standards and Guidelines will be part of our summer workgroup activities. A rough draft will be emailed to all HSTE teachers in the next two weeks for review.

All HSTE teachers are helping their students prepare for competitive events at the upcoming HOSA State Leadership Conference to be held in partnership with Utah HOSA in Layton, Utah. HOSA Competitive events are used to assess the technical skills our students are learning in the classroom and in their internships. This summer we will discuss implementation of Portfolios as a means to capture student learning throughout their program of study.

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Over the next year, we will be revising our FCS State Standards and Guidelines to reflect the changes and challenges in Career and Technology Education. The National Association of State Advisors of FACS (NASAFACS) recently reviewed all curriculum areas and has this information available. The newly revised National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education are published on the Internet, available now for the world to see and use. The URL is www.aafcs.org/FCSstandards. This would be a good place for the field to start when contemplating our state standards.

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